

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAPPING A SITE ON A WIDE AREA NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Sub A~~ A method and system for organizing and displaying information about Internet
5 Web pages on Web maps are disclosed. Web maps display a summary of the
information that a Web page provides access to, in a format that facilitates a rapid
assessment of what may be accessed through a Web site's home page, or through any
Web page on the Web site. Preferably, Web maps are displayed on a Web page, or
within a frame of a Web page, by an Internet browser application. A set of Web maps
10 may be automatically generated by a search engine or directory in response to a user's
search request. Alternatively, a user may request that a Web map be produced for a
particular Web page of interest. The Web maps are preferably generated by a Web
server, or by an application running in the background of a user's computer, so that the
user may perform other tasks on the user's computer while the Web maps are being
15 generated.